

and energy production, and help support their local job markets in the process. I encourage other hospitals and institutions in Vermont and across the country to study the potential of this new system for their own facilities and to duplicate it where appropriate.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF HENRY KIRKSEY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the life and legacy of Kirksey, former Mississippi State Senator, veteran proponent of civil rights and retired Tougaloo College professor.

Henry Kirksey personified the face of bravery. He was the lead plaintiff in most of the redistricting cases brought in Mississippi to bring the state into compliance with the 1965 Voting Rights Act in the late 1960s and early 1970s, when Mississippi was a dangerous place to do so. This was instrumental in opening the door to the creation of fair redistricting plans throughout the State. In 1965, Kirksey filed suit against the State, challenging county-wide election of State Representatives and Senators. That suit resulted in the adoption of single-member legislative districts in 1979.

We blacks elected in the State of Mississippi today owe that election more so to Henry Kirksey than anyone else. As a result of Kirksey's sacrifice, Mississippi today appears to have more African American elected and appointed officials at every level of government than any other State in the Nation. Kirksey's service as a plaintiff, expert witness and community organizer has led to the election of almost 600 African-Americans to public office in Mississippi. As part of this process, Kirksey became the first African American elected to the Mississippi Senate since Reconstruction.

He became known for filing the lawsuit that led to Jackson changing its form of government in 1985 to the mayor-seven-member council system. He also was a member of the group that fought for reapportionment changes in the late 1970s that led to a record number of black candidates being elected to the Legislature. Kirksey was instrumental in challenging the districts from which state court judges ran, resulting in more diversity on the bench.

As a noted map-maker, Kirksey was significant to the formation of Mississippi's majority-black 2nd Congressional District, which I have the distinct pleasure of representing today.

I applaud the life and legacy of Henry Kirksey.

SUPPORT FOR MILITARY TECHNOLOGICAL CAPABILITIES

HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. McCAUL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, our military forces need and deserve ample resources and superior technological capabilities to remain strong, which requires ongoing de-

velopment efforts by both the public and private sector.

In fact, some of the military's most innovative technologies are being developed by small companies. Two examples are in the 10th District of Texas, with each of these Austin-based companies developing a technology with significant military value. To accelerate the availability of these new technologies for military applications, I have recommended that funding support be included in the Department of Defense Appropriations Act for 2006.

One of the technologies is a unique 3-D holographic imaging system developed by Zebra Imaging, which will soon be deployed by the Army in Iraq for intelligence and operational uses. The \$2.25 million requested for this technology would advance the current non-portable imaging system to a field deployable unit for combat forces, with this capability available within 24 months. Army intelligence and operational units have urged the acceleration of this development effort because of the strategic and tactical value to combat troops, which the requested funding seeks to achieve.

The second technology is in the field of micro-electronics and involves RF MEMS switches and relays under development by TeraVista Technologies. These micro devices, which provide enormous advances in the size, capabilities and performance of military electronics, are key to achieving faster and more powerful network communications, radar and satellite systems. The \$2.25 million requested will accelerate TeraVista's development work, specifically supporting a program to bring RF MEMS switches to a production-ready status and available for a variety of military applications.

These two technologies are recognized within the military as crucial developments, and I hope the Defense Appropriators provide the necessary funding to quickly bring them to operational use.

A NEW TECHNOLOGY IN PERMA- NENT, SELF-CLEANING AIR FIL- TERS FOR MILITARY VEHICLES

HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. McCAUL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support a new technology in permanent, self-cleaning air filters for military vehicles operating in high-dust environments, such as in the Middle East.

A company in my district, Signature Science LLC, and its partners are proposing to adapt, integrate and fully test a new self-cleaning air filter technology developed for military vehicles that will save the Department of Defense millions of dollars annually by eliminating the cost of disposable air filters in addition to reducing maintenance costs of vehicle engines. Diesel engines on military vehicles currently use disposable air filters that require frequent changes to protect engines from the damage caused by dusty environments. In Iraq for example, these filters must be replaced after as little as 16 hours of use on some vehicles operating there.

Signature Science's technology for a permanent, self-cleaning air filter will save American

tax dollars while avoiding logistical problems for the military such as operational burdens, decreased fuel efficiency and increased security risks.

For these reasons we need to advance this technology beyond the research phase in the very near term, and I believe that the Defense Appropriators would be serving the national interest by funding the development and testing of these air-filter prototypes for our military vehicles.

H.R. 4550, THE NATIONAL HEPATITIS B ACT

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4550, the National Hepatitis B Act. Mr. DENT from Pennsylvania and I have partnered in this bipartisan effort to address the needs of Americans afflicted with chronic Hepatitis B.

Chronic Hepatitis B is a serious public health concern here in the United States and worldwide. The Hepatitis B vaccine is the most effective way to prevent chronic Hepatitis B and its deadly implications of liver cancer and liver failure. Yet, vaccination rates remain low and Hepatitis B is one of the most commonly reported vaccine-preventable diseases in the U.S.

Chronic Hepatitis B is often called a "silent disease" because more than two-thirds of those infected with Hepatitis B have no recognized symptoms. Without appropriate screening and management of the disease, one in four Hepatitis B carriers dies from liver cancer or liver disease. Early detection reduces the likelihood that the virus is unknowingly transmitted to others. Unfortunately, many of those who become infected with the disease do not recognize the symptoms until after they have developed significant liver damage or have already passed it on.

Mr. Speaker, as Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, I am especially concerned because Hepatitis B is one of the greatest health disparities affecting the Asian Pacific Islander American community. As many as 1 in 10 Asian Pacific Islander Americans are chronically infected with the Hepatitis B virus.

We all have constituents affected by this disease. More importantly, we have the ability to stop the spread of this disease. Last May, I was pleased by the strong bipartisan support in both the House and Senate for the resolutions supporting National Hepatitis B Awareness Week. We also had tremendous bipartisan interest in the Hepatitis B "Aim for the B" Congressional Briefing held on July 21, 2005.

We know that there is hope. We have vaccines and treatments available that were not available 25 years ago. With treatment, patients have a better shot at beating this disease and preventing its progression to liver disease. However, there is much work that needs to be done. We need to increase public education about Hepatitis B, help infected patients and their physicians identify and manage this disease, raise awareness of the consequences of untreated chronic Hepatitis B, and help increase the length and quality of life